

been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner, and Claims 5-10 having been amended by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 6-10 were objected to for informality; Claims 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter not described in the specification; and Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

In response to the objection of Claims 6-10, Claims 6-10 have been amended for the noted informality as suggested by the Examiner.

X (With regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, Claim 5 has been amended to remove the claim languages considered to be new matter by the Examiner and thus is believed to overcome the rejection. However, Applicants respectfully submit that for cutting the optical fiber by moving the cutting blade, the cutting speed of the cutting blade should be more than zero as a matter of course. It is therefore respectfully submitted that given the mathematical expression recited in amended Claim 5, one ordinarily skilled in the art would be able to *reasonably* recognize and practice *without undue experimentation* that the speed of the cutting blade would be more than zero despite the amendment thereto.¹

With regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claim 7 has been amended to clarify the subject matter recited therein. Hence, Claim 7-10 are believed to be in compliance with the requirements of the statute.

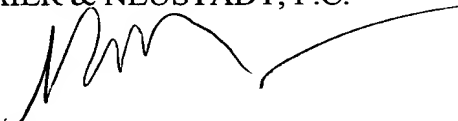
¹ MPEP 2164.08, stating that “[a]ll that is necessary is that one skilled in the art be able to practice the claimed invention, given the level of knowledge and skill in the art,” that “[f]urther the scope of enablement must only bear a “reasonable correlation” to the scope of the claims,” and that “[t]he second inquiry is to determine if one skilled in the art is enabled to make and use the entire scope of the claimed invention without undue experimentation.”

If, however, the Examiner disagrees with any of the claim amendments discussed above, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to derive a mutually agreeable claim language.

In view of the amendment and the discussions presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 5-10 as follows:

--5. (Twice Amended) A method for cutting an optical fiber, for [completely] cutting the optical fiber by moving a cutting blade [across the optical fiber], comprising a step of moving the cutting blade having a blade thickness α (mm) at a speed β (mm/minute) during the cutting,

wherein $[0 <] \beta \leq -253\alpha + 65$ (mm/minute).

6. (Twice Amended) The [A] method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 5, further comprising a step of heating said cutting blade.

7. (Twice Amended) The [A] method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 5, wherein said cutting blade is moved by using an optical fiber cutting apparatus including said cutting blade, a cutting blade holder configured to hold and to move said cutting blade to a cutting position, an optical fiber supporter configured to support the optical fiber such that said cutting blade is perpendicular to the optical fiber at the cutting position, a speed reducing device configured to reduce and to transmit drive force, and a drive force transmission device configured to transmit the drive force from said speed reducing device to said cutting blade holder.

8. (Twice Amended) The [A] method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 7, wherein said drive force is provided by a motor.

9. (Twice Amended) The [A] method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 8, wherein said speed reducing device comprises a plurality of speed reducing gears configured to reduce a rotational speed of said motor.

10. (Twice Amended) The [A] method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 9, wherein said drive force transmission device comprises a cam configured to rotate along with a rotation of said plurality of speed reducing gears and a cam follower configured to move in a rectilinear direction along with a rotation of said cam.--